

Former STARBASE Hawaii Student Turned STEM Major

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office
Story by Krystal Kawabata, Hawaii State DOD

If you talk to many successful professionals, a number of them will tell you they had a pivotal moment in their lives that put them on the path to their future careers. For Ioane Burns II, that moment came when he was just nine years old at STARBASE Hawaii.

"I've always appreciated my time at STARBASE, but it wasn't until recently that I've realized how much of an impact it made on my life," said Burns.

STARBASE is a nationally recognized program that focuses on making core subjects; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), fun and understandable for elementary-age students.

Burns first got involved with STARBASE when he briefly moved from North Kohala to Oahu. In 2007, when he was in the 5th grade, his class at Hickam Elementary

school participated in the STARBASE program on Ford Island. While he had to move back to Hawaii Island nearly a year later, his enthusiasm for the program never waned and he continued on with the STARBASE program at the Keeaou Armory during the summer months.

"There were a lot of awesome things I got to do at STARBASE," said Burns. "At Ford Island, we learned about how submarine crews deal with casualties such as flooding or fire. We learned different scientific laws and principles. We even got to build and launch model rockets! At Keeaou, we built soda bottle rockets, got introduced to CAD (Computer Aided Design), and my favorite part; got to fly with the Microsoft flight simulator!"

While STARBASE introduced him to a host of activities, Burns says he always had an interest in the STEM field.

U.S. Soldiers with the Hawaii National Guard meet with Virginia State Police to finalize traffic security operations in Arlington, Virginia, Jan. 18, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up to and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

Hawaii National Guard supports 59th Presidential Inauguration

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office
Story by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Hawaii National Guard Soldiers deployed to Washington, D.C. in mid January, 2021, to provide support to federal and district authorities leading up to the 59th Presidential Inauguration. Their mission was to provide additional security on the four bridges that lead from the Virginia side of the Potomac River into Washington, D.C. The approximately 200 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery and the 29th Brigade Engineering Battalion all responded to the call-up quickly, and in less than 48-hours, were at the National Capital Region. They worked with the New Jersey Army National Guard as both

were assigned to the task force called "Team Bridges."

"The Hawaii National Guard sent about 200 Soldiers and one Airman here to support the inauguration for the 46th President," said Lt. Col. David Hatcher. "We were tasked with the mission to support the Virginia State Police and their road closures and traffic management. We were also asked to supply a ready reaction team. We were eager to get out there and do our job. It was

a long trip and quick turnaround, but, we remained resilient and motivated."

The bridge security mission required coordination and

HIANG Airmen
in DC as well
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Tech. Sgt. Jose Molestina, Staff Sgt. Daniel Buss, Senior Airman Nainoa Kahaulopua, Chief Master Sgt. Edward Tang, and Tech. Sgt. Garrick Ferreira, all Hawaii Air National Guard members who augmented the 113th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Ground Transportation Flight, gather Feb. 19, 2021, while supporting Operation Capitol Response in Washington D.C. The Airmen initially relocated to support this year's presidential inauguration and provided 24/7 transportation capabilities for thousands of follow-on service members to ensure a peaceful transfer of power. The team has continued to support the 113th Wing at Joint Base Andrews to assist with regular movements of forces and supplies. (courtesy photo)

Hawaii ANG Airmen continue logistics support in D.C.

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Before the attacks on the U.S. Capitol Building took place in January and the mass deployment of more National Guard forces, a small team of Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen relocated to Washington D.C., starting December 28, 2020, to provide logistical support for the Presidential Inauguration.

Following a peaceful transfer of power and the reductions of forces, six members of the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron are still there, providing 24/7 support for remaining personnel.

The team of Hawaii Airmen joined vehicle operators from around the nation to augment the 113th LRS's Ground Transportation Flight at Joint Base Andrews.

"Our original plan was focused on shuttling delegates, service members and all the additional supplies normally needed for an inauguration," said Chief Master Sgt. Edward Tang, an augmented vehicle operations NCO-in charge. "But when things got wild, everything ramped up; it transformed our efforts into Operation Capital Response. We were able to oversee the big transportation moves and then we caught the beginning of the reinforcements."

As U.S. governors began sending security and support packages to D.C., logistics responsibilities and taskings multiplied several times over. The small ground transportation team grew to more than 50 personnel and was charged to track, transport, organize and provide equipment support for tens of thousands of inbound personnel.

Tang said cargo-filled aircraft poured in around-the-clock and seemed to arrive at a non-stop pace. Each team of responders required constant transportation, along with truckloads of supportive equipment movements, to deliver and store food, water, body armor and armaments.

The high demand for transportation grew to a scale far greater than what the Airmen had previously experienced at their home stations, requiring vehicle operators to quickly obtain

certifications for larger passenger vehicles and learn how to operate them safely in an unfamiliar environment. Members were constantly challenged to adapt to below-freezing conditions, ice-covered and narrow passages, snowed-in vehicles, and routinely navigating road closures.

"I've worked in cold conditions like this in Korea, but this was just a whole different animal," said Tech. Sgt. Jose Molestina, Hawaii ANG vehicle operations augmentee. "As far as I could tell, no one here has really gone through something like this before, but we still take it one day at a time and always make the most out of what we have. As a 'tech-sergeant,' you're always trying to show other Airmen new ways to solve problems and teach them how to quickly adapt on the fly."

One adverse-weather scenario required a response team of vehicle operators to manually free out three trailers and a tow vehicle entrenched by ice. Senior Airman Nainoa Kahaulopua, a Hawaii ANG vehicle operations augmentee, was on the three-person team who helped recover, assess and un-lodge the equipment.

"Every day, there's always something new to overcome, and it's a lot of excitement for my first 'TDY' (temporary duty assignment)," said Kahaulopua. "Yes, the weather has been tough on us out here; some of us are wearing about seven layers of clothing, and I'm always shivering like a chihuahua. But we keep pushing to get the job done in the

safest way possible and get our vehicles where they need to be on time. The important thing is that we've got a great team looking out for each other, and I know that whatever I'm going through, someone always has my back."

While the logistics Airmen were specifically tasked to deliver ground transportation, three Hawaii guardsmen hailed from the vehicle-maintenance career field. They were able to apply their maintenance skills throughout their deployment. Not only did their maintenance expertise help to save local manpower resources that would otherwise be sourced out from the installation, but it enabled vehicle operators to make repairs on-the-spot and ensure timely deliveries on several occasions.

Based on the task-at-hand, transportation Airmen frequently alternated between 10-Ton Wreckers, 44-passenger busses and towing of 40-foot trailers throughout D.C. and neighboring states, such as Maryland and Virginia.

By early February, the National Guard's continued presence in the D.C. area was reduced significantly due to a lowered state of national security needs. With the reduction of forces, the 113th Ground Transportation Flight dropped down to 14 operational members, including six Hawaii Airmen who continue to support the remainder of personnel on the flight line and throughout the local area.

With a string of potential hazards, ranging from adverse road conditions, freezing temperatures and the presence of an ongoing outbreak, Molestina said he was thankful that members managed to support their federal mission while staying clear of any potential incidents.

There are few occasions outside of technical school training and operational deployments, enabling Airmen to work closely with so many counterparts assigned to units around the nation. According to Tang, the past two months have offered a wealth of experiences that will serve the Airmen and their peers throughout the remainder of their careers.

"It's been such a short period of time," said Tang, "but a lot of these guys have been through a lot together and have made such good friends. Especially for the younger ones, who will be hearing each other's names for years and years to come. Now, they're more experienced than ever, and they know who they can reach out to when we are working with partners in other states. This builds big-time networking for everyone involved and that is priceless."

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STARBASE - Continued

"I remember going to the magazine aisle in Borders or KTA Super Stores and finding the newest Popular Mechanics issue. As a kid I would take things apart, figure out how they worked, and tried to put them back together. I also loved inventing, and my material of choice was cardboard."

Burns adds his favorite inventions included a slot machine and an actual working vending machine, though he jokes that the latter wasn't quite as profitable as he hoped because he was the only one using it.

After Burns left STARBASE, he continued to take STEM-related courses such as CAD and even got into robotics in high school.

His parents saw his talents and encouraged him to pursue his passions long-term.

"I asked my family what kind of profession got to invent and fix things, and they told me that I could be a mechanical engineer. That ended up being my response to every time someone asked me 'what do you want to be when you grow up?'"

But a man of many talents, Burns also said he was interested in aviation.

"I had a large graphic encyclopedia of all the modern aircraft used by the US military and had every one of them memorized," said Burns. "It even became a party trick for my friends and family!"

Now, he's pursuing both.

After graduating high school at Kamehameha and heading off to college in 2015, Burns

has begun working on his mechanical engineering degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is hoping to finish with an aerospace certificate. He also began flight school in 2020 and received his private pilot's license in August.

He eventually hopes to begin a career with a commercial airline and once he finishes his bachelor's degree, is thinking about joining the Hawaii Air National Guard.

"I will definitely need to start working out though since it's been a while since Kamehameha P.E.," laughs Burns. "But I know I can do it, so I've made it a resolution for 2021!"

And STARBASE Hawaii Director, Diana Kelley, knows he can do it too.

"It reinforced for the team that what we do really matters, and that we never really know who will be deeply inspired or see STARBASE change their lives," said Kelley.

Burns encourages anyone who may be thinking of joining, or enrolling their own kids into STARBASE, to apply.

"Go for it! Always be open to expanding your horizons ... The classes are interesting, and the activities are fun! You may not end up pursuing a career in science or engineering, but just by having had the exposure to it will help broaden your understanding of the world and create critical thinking skills in ways that not many other programs can. That's something that will stick with you for life."



Hawaii National Guard Physician's Assistant Receives EFMB Award

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office
Story by Krystal Kawabata, Hawaii State DOD

A physician assistant in the Hawaii Army National Guard is adding a rare award to his belt. Maj. Joshua Radi with the 93rd Civil Support Team (CST), recently received the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB), a special skills badge that recognizes exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel.

For those unfamiliar with it, the EFMB test is considered the utmost challenge to the Soldier medic, both physically and mentally. The U.S. Army of Medical Center of Excellence also deems the EFMB the most sought-after peacetime award in the Army's medical department and calls it a "portrait of excellence" for those who receive it.

This year, the EFMB test was conducted at Schofield Barracks and began with standardization to familiarize them with the test between Dec. 4-11, 2020. After that, applicants underwent testing between Dec. 12-18, 2020. Out of 190 people that took the written test, only 90 passed. Then, after a physical fitness assessment, which included day-and-night land navigation, three combat testing lanes, and a 12-mile 'forced' ruck march, only 30 people ended up earning the EFMB.

The 15 percent success rate shows just how difficult it is to obtain the award. Radi concurs, admitting getting the award was no easy feat.

"This is one of the most challenging things I've had to do in my military career," said Radi. "I spent four months training with Tripler Army Medical Center in order to prepare myself for the rigors of the badge. I hope it will demonstrate to my superiors, peers, and subordinates, my dedication to the military profession and to the Army Medical Department."

His commanding officer, Lt. Col. Aaron Blanchard, commended him on the achievement.

"All the credit goes to Maj Radi," said Blanchard. "It's an individually graded event and he is the one who spent months training for it. He spent countless hours preparing for this outside of work and I'm glad to see it paid off. Maj. Radi is the first medical officer from the 93rd CST to try out for this badge and I hope others will follow his footsteps in the future."

Out of the 30 people who received the EFMB, Radi was the only National Guardsman to receive the award, next to 29 active-duty members. He also now becomes one of eight service members in the HIARNG to ever receive the EFMB, and the third officer to obtain the award.

"I take great pride in wearing the badge and will share what I've learned with my team and the Hawaii National Guard," said Radi. "As the primary Combat Lifesaver instructor for the 93rd CST, and as an additional evaluator for the HIARNG Medical Detachment during their annual Tactical Combat Casualty Care training, I intend to share the lessons learned during the EFMB and prepare other medics and medical professionals should the opportunity arise."

However, Radi isn't the only one doing

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big things to represent his unit. Lt. Col. Blanchard says they have a compact, but mighty team.

"I'm always happy when we get a chance for individuals on the 93rd CST to show case their abilities and represent," said Blanchard. "In 2020 we had Sgt. Haleigh Agular represent the HIARNG in the Best Warrior competition, placing 2nd in the regionals. We also had Capt. Valentine Roberts qualify in the top five for the All-Guard Marathon Team. With 22 team members, we make a very small portion of the Hawaii National Guard, but definitely take pride in representing this team and the State of Hawaii."



Tech. Sgt. Paul Roberts, 204th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, observes a parachute drop at the Kane's drop-zone Jan. 14, 2020, at Kahuku, Hawaii. The training drop was part of Exercise H20 which focuses on interoperability between Hawaii and Alaska Air National Guard units, tasked with executing contingency astronaut rescue for NASA's SpaceX Commercial Crew Program. Roberts was serving as the drop zone officer for the operation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)

Wide range of rescue capabilities expand during Exercise H20

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Senior Airman John Linzmeier | Thursday, February 18, 2021

Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron wrapped up a month-long search and rescue exercise throughout and around Oahu on Feb. 6, alongside partners from the Alaska ANG.

The training, called Exercise H20, was tailored to improve the Hawaii Air National Guard's astronaut recovery mission set, spanning across the world's largest area of operation – the Pacific Ocean.

C-17 Globemaster III aircrews from Hawaii and Alaska have been providing contingency recovery capabilities on a routine basis since May 2020 when NASA's Commercial Crew Program began transporting personnel to the International Space Station.

Throughout the exercise, cargo-aircraft were reconfigured into effective rescue platforms and loaded with teams of pararescue Airmen from

the 144th Rescue Squadron, renowned as 'PJs,' practicing a series of airdrops in a multitude of conditions.

"In all, we have continued to spin up more qualified rescue aircrew and have built on the foundations of the existing crews," said Capt. Evan Kurosu, 204th AS pilot and exercise planner. "We have also identified some improvements to our Con-Op (concept of operations) we use for the NASA mission based on what we learned from this particular PJ team. We also have identified best practices and techniques we will standardize between the 144th and us moving forward because of the fluid nature of rescue procedures."

The CCP was formed to

facilitate the development of U.S.-based space travel programs, enabling private agencies to transport crew members into orbit and safely back to earth. During each manned voyage, such as SpaceX's launches to the ISS in May and November last year, airlift Airmen staged rescue packages in Hawaii and South Carolina. In the event of a hard-to-

reach water landing, the closer C-17 will locate the capsule, airdrop watercraft, along with a team of pararescue members, who are prepared to egress and treat the astronauts for up to 72 hours.

"If astronauts splash down within 200 miles of the launch site, a rescue triad is on alert to respond," said Maj.

Joseph Leman, 144th AS instructor pilot and exercise director. "If the landing is beyond that radius, a C-17 becomes the aircraft of choice for the mission because we

can go further and get there faster."

Airlift sorties were conducted

in daytime and nighttime conditions. They entailed the use of night vision goggles, airdrops of personnel and rescue equipment, and deployments of smoke markers and flares to help spot downed astronauts in harsh ocean environments.

While most training scenarios were primarily focused on developing the CCP rescue mission, exercise planners incorporated additional

Hawaii State Department of Defense

**pupu
kahi**
pupukahi "harmoniously united"

and complementing tactical proficiencies with partnered units, designed to save costs that would otherwise be higher as stand-alone events.

The pinnacle of H20's supplementary training, dubbed 'The Super Sortie,' consisted of a 12-aircraft formation, including all flying squadrons based out of JBPH-H along with a visiting C-17 from Alaska. Following the formation of eight F-22 Raptors, three Globemasters and one KC-135 Stratotanker, airlift members set out to multiple drop zones on the north shore, to conduct 12 personnel airdrops and six drops of heavy equipment.

Throughout the Super Sortie, air surveillance and tactical oversight were remotely communicated by air battle managers and command and control personnel from the 169th Air Defense Squadron, which specializes in giving aviators the upper hand in a contested and complex environment.

Additional pararescuemen and HC-130J aircrew, from the active-duty 211th RS, joined their ANG comrades throughout the month to progress their jumpmaster training proficiencies, entailing static line jumps and high-altitude-low-opening (HALO) jumps.

Kurosu said H20 was designed to generate as much value as possible and validate complex drills and increase interoperability with partnered units. After taking on 20 successful sorties, mission planners are now developing strategies to evolve the next iteration of H20 and continue to streamline aircrew and rescue personnel's integration.



Senior Airman Kathryn Bayudan, material management specialist with the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron adjusts ornaments and Angel Tree tags on her unit's 'Angel Tree' Christmas tree, Dec. 5, 2020, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Angel Tree is a charitable program that collects donations to fulfill Christmas wishlists for elderly and children in need. Through the program, Bayudan and fellow LRS Airmen have collected donations to fulfill more than 80 separate Christmas wishlists for the Salvation Army sponsored project. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)

Logistics and Readiness Airmen keeps giving tradition alive

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz | Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Operation challenges brought on by COVID-19 didn't stop Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen from continuing their tradition of giving this 2020 holiday season.

As part of their efforts to help provide community members in-need with a 'little something nice' during the holiday months, Airmen from the 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron participated in an Angel Tree donation program. The project, sponsored by the Salvation Army, engages volunteers to gather donations to fulfill Christmas wish lists for in-need elderly and children.

"We wanted to bring that partnership with us and continue being involved in this program"

"It's gratifying to be able to give back to the community," said Tech. Sgt. Ashley Mooney, 154th LRS first sergeant and a co-coordinator for this year's effort. "I think this year hits a little harder with the layoffs happening in the community due to COVID. Knowing that so many of our neighbors are seeking help during this time, we felt an even stronger urge to give support."

Wish lists are curated from 'kupuna' (elderly) and 'keiki' (children) by the Salvation Army. Those wish lists are then transposed on gift tags that are then hung amongst ornaments on a

participating organization's 'Angel Tree' Christmas Tree. Those wanting to donate, visit the tree, pull a gift tag of their choosing and go about acquiring the items on the list. The gifts are then brought back where they are collected and organized before being delivered to the Salvation Army for final delivery.

This year's Angel Tree marks the 3rd straight year LRS Airmen have participated in the charitable program. In previous years, teams of LRS Airmen would man multiple Angel Tree shifts at a local mall, interacting with shoppers and encouraging HIANG members to stop-by to pull a wishlist to fulfill.

This year however, COVID-19 limited the Airmen to one shift at the mall. Undaunted by the reduction in shifts, a decision was made to expand the program to the HIANG campus by sponsoring an Angel Tree at the LRS facility for HIANG personnel to directly take-part in the giving.

For Mooney, the Angel Tree effort is something she has extensive experience with, having participated in Angel Tree programs as a former member of the Maryland Air National Guard.

"My husband and I became involved in the Angel Tree in Maryland back in 2009," said Mooney. "He had participated



Sergeant Ryan Pang, Task Force Oahu, Hawaii National Guard, assist with the manual verification and updating of visitors test results registered in the Safe Travels Hawaii program, November 16, 2020, 298th Multi-Functional Training Regiment located in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

Hawaii Guard assist Safe Travels Hawaii program backlog

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by 1st Lt. Anyah Peatross | Tuesday, November 17, 2020

The Hawaii National Guard Joint Task Force took on a new COVID-19 mission, days after the return of trans-Pacific travel to the Hawaiian Islands on Oct. 15, 2020. Guardsmen assigned to Task Force (TF) O'ahu have been assisting the State of Hawaii's Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and Department of Health in verifying test results of visitors registered in the Safe Travels Hawaii program since Oct. 21, 2020, at the 298th Multi-Functional Training Regiment located in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

The Safe Travels Hawaii program allows people to travel to the islands and skip the mandatory 14-day quarantine, provided they present a negative COVID-19 test. The test must be a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test from a certified Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment lab, and taken 72 hours before departing to the islands.

Within days of the program's launch, a hiccup in the online system caused thousands of tests to appear unreadable and forced travelers to quarantine until their test results were verified. Government officials moved quickly to fix the problem and assigned Elizabeth Thomas from ETS to train a team of Guardsmen to support clearing the backlog.

"They were easy to train," said Thomas. "The National Guard has done a fantastic job to get trained and up to speed with the process of manually verifying uploaded documents to put travelers in an exempt status, i.e., no more quarantine."

As of Nov. 4, 2020, Soldiers with Company A, TF O'ahu, assisted with backlog having reviewed and updated over 2,065 visitor test results and account status.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Riki Reynolds, the commander of Company A, TF O'ahu, leads a handful of Soldiers that make a difference in whether traveler's test results require them to remain in quarantine.

"The backlog was pretty significant because of an

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Tradition - Continued

in the program while in Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGhee Tyson and for eight years we collected gifts from our Wing members and worked at the warehouse to distribute the collections to the families in need of the service."

When the time came to uproot and move to Hawaii to join the HIANG, the call to give followed.

"We wanted to bring that partnership with us and continue being involved in this program," Mooney said. "It's something that we love doing and look forward to every year."

Helping to spearhead the Angel Tree effort was Senior Airman Kathryn Bayudan, a material management specialist with the squadron. According to Bayudan, LRS Airmen participate in several volunteer charitable programs every year. For example, in a normal year, Airmen would fan out to support programs at the Ronald McDonald House or volunteer at Meals-on-wheels efforts across the island. The ongoing outbreak suppressed some of those efforts, however the Angel Tree provided an opportunity to keep the giving going this year.

"There's a strong tradition of LRS Airmen volunteering in the community so this is definitely something that we want to keep going," Bayudan said. "The holidays can be a time of stress for some and I want to be a part of something that can help out during these times."

Efforts by Bayudan and her fellow Airmen have amounted to enough donations to fulfill more than 80 separate wish lists this year.

"It feels like I'm doing something really big," said Bayudan. "I'm fortunate to have my family and to be able to provide a nice Christmas for them, but there's others who are not as fortunate or maybe just need a little help. That's what this is all about, helping that little bit to ensure someone in-need has at the very least, a nice present during these holiday seasons."

The Angel Tree has even sparked a little friendly competition amongst different squadrons in the HIANG.

"For next year, there's talk about possibly having more than one tree in the HIANG for wider reach," Mooney said. "We even talked about having a contest for most 'Angels' supported."



Lt. Col. James Faumuina, 154th Medical Group, Detachment 1 commander and 1st Lt. Gloria Choo, International Health Specialist State Partnership Program, discuss the information presented during the COVID-19 subject matter expert exchange between the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Guam and Hawaii National Guard, Honolulu, Hawaii, Dec 1, 2020. The SMEE was held virtually due to the on-going pandemic. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

Medical Planners from the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii compare COVID-19 Response

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson | Thursday, December 3, 2020

The Guam and Hawaii National Guards participated in a virtual Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) with the plans and programing division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the first days of December 2020. The National Guard's State Partnership Program facilitated this SMEE. Normally during a table-top planning scenario in a SMEE, the planners are presented with a theoretical or historical scenario in order to build a response. However, over the three day virtual engagement, the medical planning team from each participating entity presented their real-world COVID-19 response actions to date and plans for the future actions.

"This is a medical and operational SMEE looking at the COVID-19 response for the military, but also

looking at how we have integrated the response with the civilian sector," said Lt. Col. James Faumuina, 154th Medical Group, Detachment 1 commander. "The Hawaii Guard presented our work with the State Dept. of Health (DOH) to flatten the curve. Specifically, our COVID mapping efforts and our Task Force Medical support. Guam presented their efforts to support the government and the Philippines showed the mass array of efforts they have been using to respond."

The response in the three disparate geographical areas has been varied in some aspects, but still had the foundation of some basic tactics; encouraging social distancing, practicing proper hygiene, utilizing limited lockdowns, and conducting mass testing.

The largest challenge of the three day virtual SMEE was overcoming the 18 to 20 hour time difference. So, while participants in Guam and the Philippines met in the early morning hours, Hawaii was meeting in late afternoon the day before.

The SPP is a joint Department of Defense security cooperation program, managed and administered by the National Guard Bureau, executed and coordinated by the geographic

Combatant Commands with personnel provided by the National Guard of the respective partner states. The Guam and Hawaii National Guard share the partnership with the Philippines.

Overall, the information presented served as validation of the work the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Hawaii and Guam National Guards have been doing in the years prior to 2020 to build relationships with the civilian healthcare entities in each nation and state. The Hawaii National Guard's medical planners have an over 10-year relationship with the Hawaii

"This is a medical and operational SMEE looking at the COVID-19 response"

(DOH) and have worked with then in underserved communities. This helped reinforce the messaging in those communities and throughout the State of Hawaii. This positive proactive partnership has been an example

shared with Guam and the Philippines in past pandemic SMEEs, which have been an annual event for at least the past five years.

One of the key areas of discussion was how to communicate with medical planners in the civilian health care sectors who often don't have a tactical focus.

"The military has mobile capability and skill sets that frames our way at problem solving," said Faumuina. "COVID-19 is the largest and most complex problem we have ever faced. Trying to merge our way of doing business with the civilian response is a big piece of that puzzle. These lesson and examples are what we are going to take away from this exchange to help with future operations."

During a normal SMEE, the scenario being discussed and analyzed is completed, but the COVID pandemic is not over. Therefore, part of the discussion focused on future distribution of a vaccine. There have been mass testing and drive-thru flu vaccination events in the COVID response. These efforts in the Philippines, Guam, and Hawaii were examined by the medical planners as examples to create the future vaccine distribution plans.



First Lieutenant Riki Reynolds, commander of Company A, Task Force Oahu, Hawaii National Guard, oversees a team of Guardsmen assisting with the manual verification and updating of visitors test results registered in the Safe Travels Hawai'i program, November 16, 2020, 298th Multi-Functional Training Regiment located in Waimanalo, Hawai'i.

issue in the program application," said Reynolds. "It can only read a certain type of document. Travelers are sending pictures from their cell phone which can't be verified by the systems artificial intelligence."

However, there are other reasons for the backlog.

"Most times, the uploaded test result did not have the test collection date, or the test was taken outside the 72-hour window prior to departure," added Thomas.

U.S. Army Sgts. Erick Arevalo and Ryan Pang, cavalry scouts with the Hawaii Army National Guard were trained to help identify and manually review travelers with 'verification in process,' as their account status.

"Ms. Thomas helped make this process easy because of the training and information she shared," said Pang. "It was effective in executing our daily mission."

The team works on laptops in a classroom to analyze each traveler's application status.

"Each account can take about a minute or more depending on the amount of research needed," said Pang. "Some are easier because they're already marked exempt and cleared by the state; and others we have to verify whether they've used one of the approved trusted testing partners."

Some of the accounts proved a little more difficult, but the Guardsmen armed with their training were able to assist many travelers.

"The process also depends on the actual visitor and how complex their case may be as they may have multiple family members," said Arevalo.

Improvements to the system's programming and help from the Guardsmen have made it possible to get the backlog under control.

"Trusted travel partners improved lab test results by providing it in a single format," said Thomas. "The Safe Travels Hawaii site guides travelers to which type of documents to upload. With these improvements, in addition to the manual verification process, it has made the backlog much smaller and more manageable."

Travelers are encouraged to visit the hawaiiicovid19.com Safe Travels Hawaii site to access the latest information and requirements for planning a trip to Hawaii. Technical fixes to the online system were made reducing the need for manual verification support.

Hawaii's COVID-19 response has about 800 Guardsmen supporting domestic missions on a daily basis that benefit multiple communities on six islands. While the work often varies from their primary military occupation - cross-training with government partners, organizations, and volunteers have ensured Guard members are up-to-speed and able to provide assistance on the frontlines of the pandemic.

"Be patient and keep up with (travel) guidance put out by the state," said Arevalo. "It may help speed up the process when planning a trip to Hawaii."



Airmen from the 154th Medical Group conduct pre-shot health screening with Hawaii Air National Guard Airmen queued up in their vehicles during flu drive-thru vaccinations held Oct. 3, 2020 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The 154th MDG conducted flu drive-thru vaccinations during October and November drill weekends in order to maximize the amount of HIANG Airmen able to receive the shot, while still adhering to strict COVID-19 mitigation practices. The Annual influenza vaccination is an annual military requirement that helps service members maintain both mission readiness and wellness. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)

Hawaii Medical Airmen conduct drive-thru flu vaccinations

154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawaii Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz | Wednesday, December 2, 2020

It's not your average drive-thru. There are no cheeseburgers or servings of fries. You can't order any milkshakes and you can't request a super-sized beverage. There's no combos to consider; they don't even have menus. No, the only thing they dish out at this drive-thru is a healthy serving of immunity.

Immunity in the form of the flu vaccine that is, as 154th Medical Group Airmen 'served-up' doses of it at drive-thru vaccinations held during the Hawaii Air National Guard's October and November drill weekends.

For many of the Hawaii Air National Guard's nearly 2500 Airmen, the flu shot typically involves processing through queues at or inside the med group's facilities and offices. This year, however, with pandemic mitigation efforts such as physical distancing at the forefront, a different way to accomplish the annual requirement was needed.

"This year, what we decided to do was a flu drive-thru," said Maj. Wendy Umipeg-

Wurtz, 154th Medical Group chief nurse. "Members can stay in their own vehicles while waiting in line and they can get their vaccines safely from us without ever having to step out of their cars."

Holding the drive-thru in the open spaces and roadways, adjacent to the HIANG medical facilities, offered medical personnel ample room to operate efficiently while adhering to strict COVID-19 mitigation practices.

Airmen pulling up to the medical group proceeded through a vehicle line where a team of medical personnel conducted pre-shot health evaluations. Once the pre-shot screenings were complete, those fit to proceed advanced to the final station where aerospace medical service specialists administered the shots to biceps exposed drivers through their windows.

"It was a great idea; I thought it was perfect actually," said Master Sgt. Paul Tan, 154th

20 Years of Civil Support

State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson



The 93rd Civil Support Team's mission is to support civil authorities at the direction of the governor at domestic CBRNE incident sites by identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with requests for additional support in order to help save lives and minimize property damage.

"We have a mobile laboratory we have some handheld equipment that is not the local fire departments inventory," stated Master Sgt. Emelio Maldonado. "We also have a communications truck that is able to provide secure communications, a decon capability that's a little bit more enhanced than what they provide. Our operations section has on going relationships with the regional hospitals and all the other responders as well."

A CST consists of 22 full-time National Guard personnel 18 Army / 4 Air who are postured for immediate recall 24/7.

"Each of our 5 sections has a different operational focus," said Sergeant First Class Elizaldy Pantil. "The survey section receives through intense training on hazmat, chemical, and biological courses. They're prepared to respond to unknown CBRN events. The communication section provides communication support. Our medical section provides medical support for our team and in certain events help the first responders. We also have an operations section, decontamination section and command and

control or C2 section. Together we operate as a single unit responding to different aspects of a disaster."

Because readiness is central to the mission of the 93rd CST, members are some of the most physically and mentally fit individuals in the guard. The unit has higher standards and several traditional training events a year. Needless to say, they earn their turkey. Some are even competitive in marathons and triathlons.

The 93rd CST has had annual exercises with every county in the state of Hawaii, building relationships with the state and county first responders. They have responded to every natural disaster in the state of Hawaii from 2000 to 2020, and have been in the background monitoring and testing in every large public event. They're on standby for other events such as the Ironman Triathlon, Honolulu Marathon, Aloha Stadium concerts, the Great Aloha Run, Governor's inauguration, mayor's events, and more.



Inauguration - Continued



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Atui Valu coordinates with the Virginia State Police, Arlington, Virginia, Jan. 19, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

communication with the different district law enforcement agencies that manage each of the bridges. Each bridge starts in a different Virginia municipality on one side of the Potomac, but becomes Washington D.C. jurisdiction as soon you are over the water. This required the Hawaii National Guard (HING) Soldiers to be deputized by two different agencies to avoid any jurisdictional complications. Unlike the active duty military, National Guard personnel are allowed to conduct law enforcement duties as long as they are on Title 32 status. Under Title 32 status the service members remain under state control and are paid for by federal dollars.

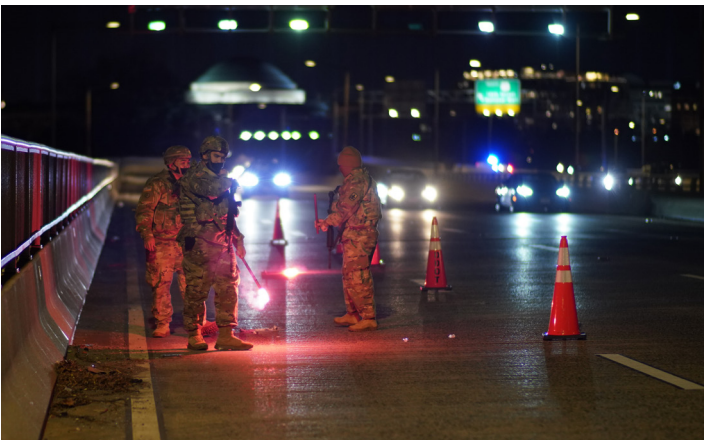
“The professionals from the Virginia State Police were outstanding Americans,” said Hatcher. “They were some of the first responders to assist capitol police on Jan. 6, 2021. Their experience with that

adds to the value of our partnership. They have been easy to work with and quick to give us everything we needed complete the mission.”

The complexities of controlling the traffic flow into the Capital Region was a



U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Langus, Hawaii National Guard, performs traffic security operations in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (U.S. Air National Guard video by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)



Soldiers with the Hawaii Army National Guard place road flares during traffic security operations on a bridge in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (U.S. Air National Guard video by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

challenge. . The Virginia State Police coordinated the efforts with the different agencies that control each end of the bridges. The U.S. Secret Service, lead planner for the bridge mission, wished that they could have started planning this in June.

“It is a great honor to be a part of this moment of history and we are proud to be a part of it.” said Staff Sgt. Atui Valu of the Hawaii National Guard. “We are here to support a peaceful transfer of power.”

Early morning on the eve of the 59th Inauguration, the Hawaii National Guard (HING) Soldiers rolled out to take their positions on the four bridges as a second line of defense behind the Virginia State Police. A rapid response team was composed of HING Soldiers and Washington Air National Guard Security Forces Airmen from the 141st Security Forces Squadron, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron, and the 194th Security Forces Flight also stood at the ready. They spent the next 48 hours rotating through 12-hour shifts and held positions on each of the

bridges in Washington D.C. Being near the water was a source of comfort for the Hawaii residents, but on this mission, the air was cold and crisp.

“It is pretty cold here but everybody has a whole lot of Aloha in their spirits right now to keep them warm. We take care of each other,” remarked Valu. “We had a few people get kind of angry but when they realized we are here to help. They came back to thank us.”

In the end, the presence of the National Guard ensured the 59th Presidential Inauguration was without incident.



U.S. Army Soldiers with the Hawaii National Guard liaise with Virginia State Police to coordinate traffic security operations, Jan. 20, 2021, Arlington, Va. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and District authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. (U.S. Air National Guard video by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

Launa'ole HIANG Annual Awards



Airman of the Year - Full Time
Senior Airman Aaron Moriyama
 154th Operations Support Squadron



Airman of the Year - Traditional
Senior Airman Daniellejordan DeMello
 154th Medical Group, Detachment 1



Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year - Full Time
Technical Sergeant Shane Williams
 203rd Air Refueling Squadron



Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year - Traditional
Technical Sergeant Michael Higuchi
 298th Support Squadron

Launa'ole HIANG Annual Awards



Senior NCO of the Year - Full Time
Master Sergeant Derek Wheeler
 203rd Air Refueling Squadron



Senior NCO of the Year - Traditional
Master Sergeant Harlasun Kang
 204th Airlift Squadron



First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sergeant Kehaulani Lobetos
 154th Medical Group

Launa'ole HIANG Annual Awards



Company Grade Officer of the Year - Full Time
Captain Shaun Kawakami
 154th Force Support Squadron



Company Grade Officer of the Year - Traditional
Captain Bruce S. Yamamoto
 154th Medical Group, Detachment 1



Field Grade Officer of the Year - Full Time
Major Brent Howard
 201st Combat Operations Squadron



Field Grade Officer of the Year - Traditional
Major Michael Namocot II
 204th Airlift Squadron

Launa'ole HIANG Annual Awards



**Winning Team Award
Hawaiian Raptor Scheduling Team
154th Force Support Squadron**



**Service Team
Hawaii Air National Guard- Honor Guard Team**



**Outstanding Unit of the Year
204th Airlift Squadron**

Launa'ole HIANG Annual Awards



**Kaleo Nui - Loud Voice - Team Spirit
298th Air Defense Group**



**Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award for
Company Grade Officer
Capitan Raynell K. Anes
154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**



Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program Receives Award for Community Service

The Hawaii Narcotics Officers Association (HNOA) presented the 2020 Outstanding Community Service Award to the Hawaii National Guard Counterdrug Program. The HING's Counterdrug Program has a rich history with local law enforcement agencies (LEA).

In 1977, the HING CDP was the first state to assist LEAs in counterdrug missions. Hawaii law enforcement officials sought HING helicopter transport to support Operation Green Harvest. Another highlight of the cooperation includes Operation Powerball in July 2001- a large drug sweep involving the arrest of 78 defendants, seizure of 53.8 lbs of meth, 22.5 lbs of cocaine, 2.4 lbs of heroin from a ring situated in California, Nevada, Arizona, Oahu and Hawaii Island.

"It is an honor working with our law enforcement community here within the State of Hawaii," said Sgt. Kevin Steven. "We contribute to their mission of helping to make the community safe. After a while they become like a second family."

Capt. Brian Kwak, HING Counterdrug Coordinator, was surprised, grateful and honored to receive the award. And he

knows that this award is based in the history of Counterdrug team members and their current collaborative work with LEAs.

"The success of the program is based in the trust and strong working relationships made with our drug law enforcement partners and community coalition members," said Kwak. "The support from both parties' leadership to work together and most importantly, the servicemembers on our team who really want to go out there and make a difference in the community."

The citation on the award reads: "For your continued support of Hawaii law enforcement through your highly skilled and dedicated personnel. You are truly a partner and a force multiplier in our efforts to counter the drug threat to Hawaii Communities."

"It's a privilege and an honor supporting the brave men and women of law enforcement who protect our communities and state," said Staff Sgt. Waylen Mendoza.

There are currently 12 staff members from the Hawaii Army and Air National Guards who make up the HING Counterdrug Program. They support

eight law enforcement agencies from the local, state and federal levels.

"We also support three community-based organizations: E Ola Pono Ma Kapolei (EOPMK) Coalition, East Hawaii Drug-Free Coalition and the Hawaii Opioid Initiative," said Steven. "We are always working to expand our reach and support the community in any way we can."

The HING Counterdrug Program also aims to increase capacity in community-based organizations and supports effective alcohol and drug use and abuse prevention strategies. This is evident in an upcoming endeavor.

"We welcome all to join Counterdrug in continuing to support drug prevention campaigns in our local communities," said Barboza. "On April 24, 2021 we will partner with the DEA for a 'National Take Back' event, to help educate the public on the importance of disposing of unwanted prescription medication and the opportunity to prevent drug misuse," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Barboza.

State DOD New Hires From 1 Jan 2021

Jan 2021

Ternus, Amber, Disaster Recovery Specialist (COVID19), HIEMA

Manzano, Helena, Threat Assessment Team Planner (OHS), OHS

Spincola, William, Lead Counselor, YCA

Shinsato, Dawn, DA Office Assistant (May 18 Kilauea), HIEMA

Meada, Susan, DA Program Specialist (Severe), HIEMA

Tashima, Lance, Disaster Assistant Program Specialist (Severe Storms), HIEMA

Trexler, Daniel, Disaster Assistant Program Specialist - Lead (COVID19), HIEMA

Yanagisawa, Kyle, Operations & Training Staff Officer, HIANG/HQ

Binger, Cara, Disaster Assistant Program Specialist Lead (Lane), HIEMA

Levy, Jonathan, Disaster Assistant Info Tech Specialist (COVID19), HIEMA

Ifopo, Faateleupu, Cadre, YCA

Uson, John, ITAM Coordinator, HIARNG/FMO

Feb 2021

Lee III, Robert SK, Cemetery Operations Manager (HSVC), OVS/HSVC

Figueira, Kelcie, Veterans Services Counselor IV (Hilo), OVS/Hilo

Eugenio, Darren, Veterans Services Counselor IV (Maui), OVS/Maui

Pace, Frank, Administrative, HLS, OHS

St John Payne, Jay, Pandemic Planner (COVID19), HIEMA

Cabase, Belen, Accountant III, ASO/Fiscal

Ganaban, Mariah, Nurse Assistant, YCA

Balignasy, Jose, Environmental Health Specialist IV (NEPA) (ENV), HIARNG/ENV

Mar 2021

Kaawaloa, Candace, DA Program Specialist (Lane), HIEMA

Marumoto, Glen, Administrative Specialist III (154th CES), HIANG/154th CES

Dye, Kekapala, Natural Area Reservations Specialist IV, HIARNG/ENV

AGR accessions from 1 Jan 21:

Feb 2021:

SGT Shaun Gomes, Training NCO, E FSC, 29th BSB

CPT Joseph Ortega, Plans Officer, Hq, 29th IBCT

SSG Noelle Kawelo, Training NCO, HHC, 29th BSB

SGT Jonathan Bautista, Training NCO, A Co, 227th BEB

SGT Ralph Maguddayao, Recruiting Retention NCO, RRB

SGT Aubrey Brock, Recruiting Retention NCO, RRB

SSG Anthony Honorato, Supply Sergeant, C Trp, 1-299th Cav

Mar 2021:

CW3 Anthony Peck, Training Officer, Det 1, G Co, 1-189 Avn Reg

SGT Jarrick Hayashi, Training NCO, Det 1, D Co, 2-211th Avn Reg

Hawaii State Department of Defense

**pupu
kahi**
pupukahi "harmoniously united"

Drive-thru - Continued



Senior Airman Kevin Miura a command and control battle management operations specialist assigned to the 169th Air Defense Squadron receives a flu shot from Tech. Sgt. Alvin Turla, 154th Medical Group aerospace medical service specialist during a Hawaii Air National Guard drive-thru vaccination operation held Oct. 3, 2020 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The drive-thru vaccination station allowed the 154th Medical Group to administer the yearly flu shot to a large number of Airmen while exercising COVID-19 prevention best practices. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Orlando Corpuz)

Maintenance Squadron accessories NCO-in-charge. "Everybody went through pretty fast. I didn't know what to expect, but I thought it was effortless and efficient after going through it. We should think about doing more things like this."

Primarily targeting HIANG Oahu-island based drill-status Airmen, the drive-thru was just one of the unique methods used to accomplish the vaccinations. Through the month of December, mobile medical teams deployed to different HIANG units located throughout the Hawaiian Islands to vaccinate additional Airmen.

According to the CDC, the flu vaccine has been shown in research studies to be the best way to reduce flu-related illnesses and the risk of severe flu complications. While COVID-19 pandemic prevention has forced many units to rethink how they conduct operations, requirements and standards have not necessarily changed.

"We've really had to take a look at our processes to see if there was a different way we could do things," Umipeg-Wurtz said. "For the flu shot requirement, the drive-thru, as well as the mobile teams, has allowed us to maximize the number of Airmen we can vaccinate while still sticking to pandemic mitigation efforts."

Though operating in unprecedented times, as of December, the 154th Medical Group was still able to ensure more than 90 percent of HIANG airmen have received this year's flu vaccine.

New Technicians from 1 Jan 21:

Jan 2021:

Alexander Chai, IT Specialist (Infosec), 291 CBCS

Ross Delos Santos, Machinist, 154 MAI SQ

Joshua Soon, Mail Assistant, Joint Force HQ - Hi

Kawelau Yen, Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq

Isaiah Handog, Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq

Fayzer Wooten, Intelligence Operations Specialist, 201 CBO Sq

Jordan Teets, Aircraft Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq

Brent Tanaka, Aircraft Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq

Vincent Macugay, Surface Maintenance Repairer, CSMS 1

Derrick Paiva, Surface Maintenance Repairer, UTES - HI

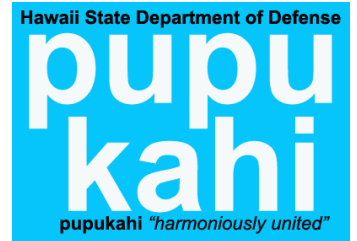
Imarie Nicole Talana, Human Resources Assistant (Military), 154 FRS Sq

Jennifer Wayte, Budget Officer, Uspto Comptroller Div

Danielle Tubania, Aircraft Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq

Jimmy Galamgam, Aircraft Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq

Cody Sonomura, Aircraft Mechanic, 154 AMX Sq



Army Capitan. Valentine Roberts, Survey Team Leader 93rd CST, recently placed 3rd in his age group in the Louisiana Half Marathon. Capt. Roberts is a member of the National Guard Marathon Team and participated in the Louisiana Race for training in Jan, 2021.